is fixed and the grant to each Municipality is made according to this scale per mile and the length of the roads. There has been no distinction between Ernakulam and Chittur in that respect.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—The grant is made per mile in Chittur as well as Ernakulam?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—On that basis Chittur gets Rs. 576 and Ernakulam 579 per mile.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—That is spent by the P. W. D. There is a vast difference in the grant made.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I don't think there is a difference. It depends upon the number of miles and the allotment per mile. If the allotment is more in Ernakulam, it is because the length of the trunk roads is more.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—If you had only a few miles, it does not matter much. But here there is vast difference in the amount.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—What is the difference, please?

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Rs. 50 per mile.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—There is no difference. The total number of miles in Chittur multiplied by the allotment per mile will give that figure. The same is the procedure for Ernakulam also.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—I think it will depend upon the width also.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—A certain amount is given. It depends upon the width also and the allotment is given according to the number of miles.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—But the P. W. D. had to spend an equal sum in Chittur when it was maintaining it.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—On account of the experience gained we thought we can reduce the amount.

Proclamation—Theendal etc.

257. Mr. M. K. Raman.—Will the Government kindly state (a) (i) whether the question of issuing a Proclamation or a Government Notification abolishing the system of Theendal in the State has ever engaged the serious attention of the Government;

(2) if so, when was the matter first taken up for consideration;

(3) is it still engaging their attention;

(4) were any tangible steps hitherto taken by the Government;

(5) if so, what were they and what were their results;

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

(b) (1) on how many occasions has the Cochin Legislative Council sent up recommendations requesting for the removal of Theendal from the State;

(2) did the Government take any action on any of them;

(3) if so, what were they;

(4) is it the intention of the Government at least now, to take up the question and effectively pass some measure abolishing the pernicious system of Theendal from the State;

(5) if the answer is in the affirmative, what probable time will it take for the Government to bring it into effect;

(6) has it come to the notice of the Government that the present political propaganda carried on both inside and outside the State has in the forefront of their programme the removal of the untouchability and unapproachability and that the general public opinion is now very much in favour of its removal and that any action taken by the Government in this direction will have the support and approval of the public opinion ?

Mr. T. S. Sesha Ayyar.—(1) Yes.

(2) Some 15 months back.

(3) Yes.

(4) and (5) Do not arise as the matter is under consideration.

(b) (1) The question has been raised in the Council several times in the forms of cut motions and resolutions.

14—8—1930—A cut motion was passed.

23—3—1931—Token motion not pressed.

27—3—1931—Resolution though tabled was not moved.

(2), (3) and (4) The matter is under consideration.

(5) It is not possible to fix any time limit.

(6) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. Opinions on the second part appear to differ.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—(2) Were the Government considering this question for the last fifteen months together ?

Mr. T. S. Sesha Ayyar.—Yes.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Were they considering whether any action should be taken or as to what action should be taken ;

Mr. T. S. Sesha Ayyar.—They are taking action.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—My supplementary question is whether the Government were considering whether any action should be taken or what action should be taken ?

Mr. T. S. Sesha Ayyar.— Both.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—No tangible result has yet come out.

Mr. T. S. Sesha Ayyar.—I cannot say anything more on that point.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. M. K. Raman.—My question is whether any tangible steps were hitherto taken by the Government during the course of the fifteen months.

Mr. T. S. Sesha Ayyar.—No action was taken which can be published.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Have the Government any objection to inform this House what action they have taken?

Mr. T. S. Sesha Ayyar.—It is of a confidential nature.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—(6) May I know what the difference of opinion is? Is it the opinion of the Government that untouchability should be removed or not and that itself is a matter of opinion or that the question whether they should take any action is a matter of opinion?

Mr. T. S. Sesha Ayyar.—The statement here is that public opinion is in favour of the removal and that any action taken by the Government will have the support of the public.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Whether the removal of untouchability is itself a matter of difference of opinion or whether Government should take any action; what is the point?

Mr. T. S. Sesha Ayyar.—On both the points.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Has it come to the notice of the Government that within these fifteen months any organised body or any responsible body has raised any objection with regard to the removal of untouchability?

Mr. T. S. Sesha Ayyar.—That requires notice.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Whether anybody has objected?

Deputy President.—He said he wants notice.

Paddy fields,—Chellanam.

258. Mr. George Chakyamuri.—Will the Government de pleased to state the following:—

(a) whether the Diwan did not personally inspect the paddy fields in Chellanam to investigate into the disputes existing there between the Thirumala Devaswam on the one hand and numerous small holders on the other in the matter of letting out water from those paddy fields:

(b) whether he has passed any final orders in the matter, and if so, what is it;

(c) whether he has not ordered the putting up of two new sluices in Erattathodu and one in Puthenthodu for the above purpose;

(d) whether the Panchayat concerned has not already submitted estimates for the above works in accordance with the requisition of the Government;

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly